

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said plurality of mark-up language structured documents ~~is~~ are subject to editing on a document-by-document basis.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before ~~being retrieved from said document edit system~~ the step of generating the resultant document.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a tag which is delimited using two selected characters, said tag being used to define a desired element ~~an element which is an identified element in the element search portion of the document~~.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a character pattern consisting of normal text characters in sequence.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a wild card tag which is defined by a selected character delimited using two selected characters, said wild card tag being used to determine structured layers in the element search portions of the first and second mark-up language structured documents ~~portion of the document~~.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a negation indicator which is defined using a selected character and accompanies an element-defining name, said negation indicator being used to define an

element wherein an element match is not established with a character sequence immediately following said negation indicator.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains an extraction indicator defined using a selected character and accompanying a character sequence, said extraction indicator being used to extract an element from the element search ~~portion~~ portions of the ~~document~~ first and second mark-up language structured documents if said character sequence matches the element in the element search ~~portion~~ portions.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a sequence connector defined by a selected character, said sequence connector accompanying two element-defining names at both sides of said sequence connector, said sequence connector specifying, in the element search ~~portion~~ portions of each of the first and second mark-up language structured documents, two elements positioned in the same order ~~of~~ as said two element-defining names.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains a hierarchy connector defined by inserting no character between first and second element-defining names, said hierarchy connector being used to determine if an element defined by said first element-defining name involves an element defined by said second element-defining name.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains parentheses involving a plurality of element-defining names that are preferentially processed.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains an AND connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided so as to sandwich said AND connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which

forms part of the element search portion and is defined by said first element-defining name, either follows or precedes the element which is defined by said second element-defining name.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, if either of said first or second element-defining names sandwiching said AND connector specifies ~~the~~ a corresponding element ~~in the document~~ either of the first and second mark-up language structured documents, a match is established therebetween and the corresponding element is extracted and stored in said edit result storage.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein if a match is established in connection with only one of said first and second element-defining names, the element already stored in said edit result storage is deleted therefrom.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said element edit statement contains an OR connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided in a manner to sandwich said OR connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if ~~the~~ an element, ~~which forms part of the element search portion and~~ is specified by either of said first and second element-defining names, is present in the element search portion of either of the first and second mark-up language structured documents of the document.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:  
acquiring another element edit statement into said document edit system, said another element edit statement being used to edit the elements which have been extracted.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said another element edit statement comprises another set of document editing instructions which are used for initializing a plurality of variables provided for editing the elements extracted, pre-editing, post-editing, and arranging the elements extracted.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before the step of generating the resultant document being retrieved from said document edit system.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said generating step (c) includes generating said resultant document which additionally includes a title heading of elements.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein said generating step ~~(e)~~ (e) includes generating said resultant document which additionally includes a title heading of elements.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a plurality of mark-up language, structured documents and generating a resultant document reflecting the edit results, comprising the steps of:

(a) acquiring at least a first and a second mark-up language, structured ~~documents~~ document in a document edit system;

(b) extracting at least a first and second element in ~~a~~ the first mark-up language structured document and a third and fourth element in ~~a~~ the second mark-up language structured document using an element edit statement which specifies the first and third elements to be extracted by a first common identifier or tag for mark-up language structured documents and specifies the second and fourth elements ~~of~~ to be extracted by a second common identifier or tag for mark-up language structured documents, wherein the elements are extracted while the relationship of the first and second elements and the third and fourth elements is maintained; and

(c) generating said resultant document, wherein said resultant document includes an arrangement of elements extracted in step (b) such that said first and third elements are arranged together with each being arranged in association with said second and fourth elements respectively.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a plurality of mark-up language structured documents each containing a plurality of structured ~~element~~ elements and generating a resultant document reflecting the edit results, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) acquiring a first and a second mark-up language structured ~~documents~~ document to be edited into a document edit system;

(b) acquiring an element edit statement into said document edit system, said element edit statement comprising a plurality of edit instructions for searching ~~at least~~ for at least a first and a second desired element in the ~~at least~~ first and second mark-up language structured documents;

(c) defining an element search portion in each of said first and second mark-up language structured documents, said element search portion of said first mark-up language structured document containing a plurality of elements in the ~~at least~~ first and second mark-up language structured ~~documents~~ document, and said element search portion of said second mark-up language structured document containing a plurality of elements in the second mark-up language structured document;

(d) implementing match operations between ~~an element~~ desired elements defined in said element edit statement and each of the elements in said element search portion of each of said first and second mark-up language structured documents, and ascertaining at least a first and a second element of said element search portion of said first mark-up language structured document which ~~matches at least a~~ match the first and second ~~element~~ desired elements defined in said element edit statement respectively, and at least a third and a fourth element of said element search portion of said second mark-up language structured document which ~~matches at least a~~ match the first and second ~~element~~ desired elements defined in said element edit statement respectively, the matched ~~element~~ elements being extracted from said ~~at least~~ first and second mark-up language structured ~~document~~ documents ~~if the matched element is indicated as being extracted~~, the extracted ~~element~~ elements being stored in an edit result storage, and said match operations being repeated until completing all the edit instructions in the element edit statement; and

(e) generating said resultant document, wherein said resultant document includes an arrangement of elements extracted in step ~~(d)~~ (d) such that said first and third elements are

arranged together with each being arranged in association with said second and fourth elements respectively.